

Application Serial No.: 09/683,496

Attorney Docket No.: 57761.000185
Client Reference: 03GP-8049REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10-15, 17-30, 32-47 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 23, 24 and 47 are amended, and claims 9 and 31 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter set forth therein. Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

No new matter has been added by this Amendment. Applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance and notice thereof is respectfully requested.

I. The June 16, 2003 Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

As was noted in Applicant's October 27, 2003 Response, Applicant filed a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement on June 16, 2003. However, an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 was not included with the June 25, 2003 Office Action. Applicant respectfully requests such initialed copy, as was discussed with Examiner Darskovsky on July 25, 2003.

II. THE ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office Action indicates that claims 20-22 and 41-47 are allowed. Further, the Office Action indicates that claims 2-6, 9-10, 24-29 and 31 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant appreciates such indication of allowable subject matter.

Applicant traverses the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103. However, in order to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicant has amended the application based on the indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are now in condition for allowance.

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Specifically, the application has been amended as follows:

Claim 2 is amended to include the features of claim 1.

Claim 1 is amended to include the features of claim 9. Claim 9 is canceled.

Claim 24 is amended to include the features of claim 23.

Claim 23 is amended to include the features of claim 31. Claim 31 is canceled.

Claim 47 is amended to include the features of claim 1.

With regard to claim 47, the Office Action indicates that claim 47 is "allowed."

However, claim 47 depends upon rejected claim 1, and accordingly would not be allowed but rather objected to as containing allowable subject matter. Accordingly, relying upon the indication in the Office Action that claim 47 includes allowable subject matter, Applicant has amended claim 47 to include the features of claim 1.

III. CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons outlined above, Applicant respectfully asserts that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.


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For any fees due in connection with filing this Response the Commissioner is hereby
authorized to charge the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,
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